

Loess Bluffs National Wildlife Refuge Monthly Habitat, Waterfowl and Eagle Survey Report

Date: 2022-12-19

Document Purpose:

This document provides a summary of waterfowl and bald eagle use on Loess Bluffs NWR, updated weekly. Bird estimates are derived using Integrated Waterbird Management and Monitoring (IWMM) protocol using an area count (bird per acre), block or modified block count methods, for more information click on the following links for [IWMM Protocol](#) pages 18 – 21 and [U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service's estimating flock size](#) website.

Habitat Conditions Summary:

Habitat conditions are rated based on ocular estimates of overall habitat condition, area (acres) of wetlands flooded and percentage of wetland frozen using [IWMM Protocol](#) pages 11 – 17.

Habitat Condition	11/28/2022 data	12/05/2022 data	12/14/2022 data	12/19/2022 data
Habitat Conditions Rating	Good	Good	Good	Good
Acres of wetlands flooded	3,290	3,300	3,350	3,390
Percentage of Wetlands Frozen	10%	90%	45%	98%

Waterfowl Species Summary:

Species	Number of Birds observed week of 11/28/2022	Number of Birds observed week of 12/05/2022	Number of Birds observed week of 12/14/2022	Number of Birds observed week of 12/19/2022
Greater White-fronted Goose	10,855	4,830	4,665	3,985
Snow Goose	152,960	16,990	45,905	1,380
Ross's Goose	35	Present	Present	Present
Canada Goose	1,005	1,495	992	1,294
Trumpeter Swan	1,671	2,584	2,753	3,008
Tundra Swan	11	8	4	1
Wood Duck	15	0	0	0
Gadwall	10	20	10	30
American Wigeon	5	10	10	0
American Black Duck	2	0	0	0
Mallard	76,715	72,085	71,870	24,100
Blue-winged Teal	0	0	5	0
Cinnamon Teal	0	0	0	0
Northern Shoveler	240	245	35	80

Species	Number of Birds observed week of 11/28/2022	Number of Birds observed week of 12/05/2022	Number of Birds observed week of 12/14/2022	Number of Birds observed week of 12/19/2022
Northern Pintail	575	895	145	350
Green-winged Teal	6,990	2,070	620	1,140
Canvasback	0	0	0	0
Redhead	10	0	0	0
Ring-necked Duck	720	5	0	1
Scaup	30	0	0	0
Bufflehead	0	0	0	1
Common Goldeneye	0	0	10	0
Hooded Merganser	1	10	0	0
Common Merganser	0	0	0	0
Red-breasted Merganser	0	0	0	0
Ruddy Duck	0	0	0	0
Pied-billed Grebe	1	0	1	0
Horned Grebe	0	0	0	0
Eared Grebe	0	0	0	0
American Coot	70	30	10	5

Species Group Summary:

Species Group	Total number of birds observed week of 11/28/2022	Total number of birds observed week of 12/05/2022	Total number of birds observed week of 12/14/2022	Total number of birds observed week of 12/19/2022
Geese	164,855	23,315	51,562	6,659
Dabblers	84,552	75,325	72,695	25,700
Divers	761	15	10	2
All Ducks	85,313	75,340	72,705	25,702
Shorebirds	0	0	2	0

Eagles Summary:

Bald Eagles	Total number of birds observed 11/28/2022	Total number of birds observed 12/05/2022	Total number of birds observed 12/14/2022	Total number of birds observed 12/19/2022
Immature	248	411	118	128
Adult	122	292	66	133
All Eagles	370	703	184	261